



## **GEF NGO Network**

### **Statement on Agenda item 14 Progress report : Accreditation Process for GEF Project Agencies**

**GEF Council, 14 November 2012**

The GEF NGO Network welcomes the GEF Secretariat progress report on the accreditation process. Accreditation of new agencies is something the GEF NGO Network strongly supports as it can promote the achievement of several critical objectives. Successfully executed, this process will promote country ownership and increase GEF efficiency. This change is potentially transformational and may lead to a new, critical delivery mechanism for the GEF 6 replenishment.

Given its importance, it is vital that this pilot be a success — a meaningful, deep test of the idea. That implies that there must be some projects executed under CSO and national Project Agencies in GEF5. To assure that happens, the GEF Secretariat and Trustee must work together closely, with that as a clear goal. With that in mind, we would like to ask the following:

- What additional steps can the GEF secretariat take to ensure that applications are processed as quickly as practical and that capacity constraints in the Accreditation Panel do not block the success of the pilot (such as by strengthening the panel resources since all cost are supported by applicant agencies)?
- Could the Secretariat discuss the status and obstacles to the review of the applications of the 8 agencies that have not yet been reviewed under stage II?
- Could the Secretariat prepare a notional timeline for applicant agencies and indicate what measures will be put in place to improve the possibility of Project agencies to contribute to the pilot by presenting project proposals before GEF5 resources are exhausted?
- Could the Trustee present procedures, timeline and workplan on the FPA negotiations for applicant agencies for stage III to ensure that the overall process could be completed in a timely manner

Finally, a note of caution and a reminder of first principles. The most important outcome of this pilot is the integration of new, high quality implementing agencies. Technical review of procedures is important, but so is a comprehensive assessment and monitoring of agencies and their ability to contribute to the GEF without raising undue reputational risks. We insist that the verification of the effectiveness of the Environmental and Social Safeguards of all applicants is thorough. Serious concerns have been raised by some Network members on the negative environmental impacts of projects being financed through one of the proposed agencies. We shall provide information to the Secretariat on this and hope that this can be taken into consideration in the screening of the Agency Standards for Environmental and Social Safeguards.

In addition, we wish to remind that Council that it was agreed that all existing GEF agencies were meant to have been reviewed against the Environmental and Social Safeguards but this has yet to be completed.